

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-13 and 18 stand rejected, and claims 14-17 are objected to.

Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-13, and 18 herein without prejudice, and have amended claims 14 and 15 to be written in independent form. In addition, Applicants have added new claims 19 and 20. Claim 19 depends from claim 14, and recites that the sample is a bodily fluid, and claim 20 recites that the bodily fluid is blood. Support for claims 19 and 20 can be found in original claims 15 and 16, for example. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In light of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 14-17, 19, and 20.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 14-17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14 and 15 are amended herein to be written in independent form. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 14-17.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by the abstract of the Chen et al. reference (*J. Mol. Med.* 1998, 76:B11), for the reasons of record. The Examiner also rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by the abstract of the Trefzer et al. reference (*J. Dermatolog. Sci.* 1998 16(Suppl. 1):S110), for the reasons of record.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-13, and 18 are cancelled herein. Thus, these rejections are moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 14-17, 19, and 20 are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned agent if such would further prosecution.

Please charge \$1050 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee, and apply any other charges or credits, to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 11, 2008/

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